Fiji: The illegal interim Government established in Fiji through two military coups of May and September 1987, pursued policies of racial discrimination against Fijians of Indian origin, which we have consistently opposed in international forums. The Fiji Government on 23rd May, 1990, asked us to close our Mission in Suva, following which there have been no diplomatic relations between the two countries.

NAM's Stand on NPT

2864. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the recently concluded NAM Foreign Minister's Conference at Cairo bears eloquent testimony to its continuing importance in the changed world situation; and

(b) if so, whether India is expected to have a leading role in NAM especially against the threat of sanction by the developed countries on NPT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has been consistently playing an active role on all issues of concern to the NAM, including disarmament.

Closing down of Mission in Aden

2865. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have closed down its mission in Aden without even appointing an Honorary Consul; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent to the unification of North & South Yemen Sanaa became the capital and the Mission in Aden was closed. Appointment of an Honorary Consul, which is not related to the closure of a Mission, has not taken place.

Delay in issuing Passport by Ahmedabad Passport Office

2866. SHRI GOPALSINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the normal time taken by the Regional Passport office, Ahmedabad to issue a passport to an applicant;

(b) whether one of the general reasons given by the regional passport office for the delay in issuing a passport is said to be the delay in receipt of police report;

(c) whether any cases of loss of police reports after their receipt in the said office have also come to notice;

(d) whether there have been any complaints about issuance of passports where expiry dates marked on the passport happened to be earlier than the issuing dates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what procedure is adopted for setting right such passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (e) RPO Ahmedabad issues passports on first come first served basis. Presently it issues passports within 75-80 days of receipt of applications. No cases of loss of police report have come to notice; however, sometimes there are delays because of misplacement, wrong file numbers and postal delays. Regarding issue of passport where expiry date marked on the passport was earlier than the date of issue, one case has come to the notice of the RPO which was later on rectified.

Russia's Stand on Kashmir Issue

2867. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item cap-

tioned "Pak's bid to convince Russia" appeared in the Hindustran Times dated 20th July, 1994 about the changing stand taken by Russia on the Kashmir issue;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the recent visit of our Prime Minister to Russia Kashmir issue was discussed; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Russia on the Kashmir issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Russian Government has reiterated that it stand remains unchanged, which is that the issue should be resolved through peaceful bileteral negotiations between India and Pakistan within the framework provided by the Simla Agreement of 1972. The Russian Government is against the internationalisation of the Kashmir issue.

Joint Secreatry level talks with Pakistan

2868. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently revived the proposal for Joint Secretary level talks with Pakistan to review the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Diplomatic Personnel agreed upon by the two sides in August 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the response of the Pakistan Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government proposed on April 7, 1994 to the Government of Pakistan that consultations between the two Foreign Offices at the level of Joint Secretary may be held for a review of the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan. In the light of numerous incidents of intimidatory surveillance and harassment meted out to the Indian diplomatic officials and their family members posted in our missions in Pakistan. On July 12, 1994 Government reiterated its earlier proposal to hold discussions between the two Foreign Offices to review the implementation of the Code of Conduct. This proposal has not yet found favour with Islamabad. Meanwhile, discussions were recently held in New Delhi and in Islamabad between officials of the concerned Mission and Ministry to discuss the range of issues involved. Several suggestions were made on ways and means of improving implementation of the Code of Conduct in letter and spirit. Both sides also agreed to hold further discussion on this subject.

Offers on UNOSOM-II

2869. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the offices of Chief of Staff UNOSOM-II (Somalia) and UN Force Commander, Cyprus came our way;

(b) whether Government let go the two offers; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The UN had offered to India, the post of Force Commander of the United Nations force in Cyprus. Although India has provided a panel of three suitable officers from the Indian Army, it now appear that an Indian candidate for this post will not enjoy consensus support from the parties involved. Hence India is not pressing for this appointment.

The post of Chief of Staff in the UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM-II) had also been offered to India, after June'94. However, since the present mandate of UNOSOM-II is only till September 1994 and the operation is expected to end by March'95, the UN is now of the view that